

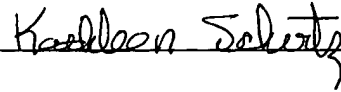
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Kathleen Schirtz

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PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No. D/99398QC

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Laurence Hubert, et al.

For: META-DOCUMENT AND METHOD OF MANAGING

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY RESPONSE

Sir:

This application is a continuation of pending U.S. application number 09/404,174 filed September 24, 1999 ("Parent").

Claims 1-16 of the Parent were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art (APA) in view of MacLean et al. (6,505,219). MacLean et al. and this application are assigned to the same assignee, Xerox Corporation. In accordance with 35 USC 103(c), MacLean et al. is not available as a reference against this application because MacLean et al. and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person (in this case, Xerox Corporation).

Consideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,



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Xerox Corporation
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Date: January 27, 2004